

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Following paragraph [0031], please add following paragraphs:

[0032] The digital system illustrated in FIG. 1 is typically displaceably attached to a convenient support surface, such as a windshield offering a fairly broad and relatively unobstructed field of view. However, in situations requiring manual operation of the system, such as when the field of view is not sufficient due to natural or artificial obstructions preventing the mounted system from capturing events, the system can be operatively dismounted for further hand-held operations.

[0033] While various installation means can be configured to provide operative removal of the digital system from the support surface, in general, it has an installation base 110 (FIG. 1) fixed to the support surface and dimensioned to removably receive the housing 80 of the digital system. Thus, when the circumstances dictate the use of the digital system as a recording apparatus by manually taking still pictures (snap shots) of or continuously recording the scenes of interest, the operator 90 simply removes the system from the base 110.

[0034] In use, the digital system operates in several modes defined by the control unit 10. In an automatic mode of the control unit, the digital system is mounted in the base 110 and captures an incident in response to a signal output by the sensor 50. In this mode, the control unit 10 allows recording for a period before, during and after the event that has triggered the output of the sensor 50.

[0035] Alternatively, the operator 90 can manually activate a triggering event by manually actuating a button 120 (FIG. 1) causing an output signal. Numerous events may attract the operator's attention causing him/her to permanently record an event. Although the triggering event is created by manually pushing the button 120, the digital system still operates in the automatic mode permanently storing images captured during the period including some time before, during and after the button 110 is activated.

[0036] Finally, if a situation calls for portable use of the digital system, the operator 90 can remove it from the installation base 110 and, while holding the system in his/her hands, operate it as a digital camera taking still pictures by simply activating the button

120 in a predetermined manner. Inherently, actuation of the button 120 can happen any time irregardless of the specific mode in which the digital system currently operates.